THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) Reports of alleged corruption in the judiciary have come to the notice of the Government from time to time.

The Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justice of a High Court has the competence, as per the 'in-house procedure' devised by the judiciary to receive and look into complaints against the conduct of a Judge of the Supreme Court and of the concerned High Court respectively.

As regards the members of Judicial Service of a State, under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court and the State Government.

The appointment of Judges in the High Courts is, at present, made in terms of the Memorandum of Procedure for Appointment for Judges in the High Courts and Supreme Court which has been drawn up on the basis of the judgment delivered by the Supreme Court on October 6, 1993 in the case of Supreme Court Advocates on Record and Anr. Vs.Union of India and Anr. and their Advisory Opinion dated October 28, 1998. There has been criticism of the existing procedure by some bodies as well as experts.

There is no proposal before the Government to consider ratification of appointments in judiciary in State courts by State Legislative Assemblies and in Supreme Court by Parliament.

Survey on corruption in judicial system

†*127. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of rampant corruption in the judicial system;

(b) if so, whether Government has carried out any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) how many cases of corruption against judges of Supreme Court/High Courts came to the light during the last three years and how many cases have been disposed of, out of them;

(e) whether Government proposes to establish some mechanism to reform the judicial system;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (g) Reports of alleged corruption in judiciary have come to the notice of the Government from time to time. No survey, however, has been carried out by the Government in this regard.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

2. The issue of Judicial Accountability was discussed at the Conference of Chief Justices held in 1990 and on the basis of the broad consensus emerging out of the deliberations, the procedure to deal with complaints against the Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court was adopted as under:-

The Chief Justice of the High Court has the competence to receive complaints against the conduct of the Judges of his court and when he receives any, he would look into it for finding out if it deserves to be closely looked into. Where he is satisfied that the matter requires to be examined, he shall have facts ascertained in such manner as he considers appropriate keeping the nature of allegations in view -and if he is of the opinion that the matter is such that it should be reported to the Chief Justice of India, he shall do so.

The Chief Justice of India shall act in a similar manner in regard to complaints relating to conduct of Judges of the Supreme Court and in regard to conduct of Chief Justices of the High Courts. On the basis of the facts ascertained, the Chief Justice of the High Court or the Supreme Court, as the case may be, shall take such appropriate action as may be considered proper, keeping the interests of the judiciary as the paramount consideration.

The complaints received against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are, at present, dealt with in the manner indicated above.

3. No statistics regarding the number of complaints against the Judges is maintained.

4. The Government is in the process of preparing a road map for judicial reforms in the country.

Importance of food processing sector

*128. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister has pointed out during his address at the second Food Technology Summit that the food processing sector needs 10 years' tax holiday;

(b) whether he had also pointed out that the Planning Commission had not understood the importance of this sector and has urged the latter to give priority to this sector;

(c) whether this sector is the key for generation of jobs for the rural population, which forms 70 per cent of population in the country; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government has considered suggestions of the Ministry and what are the main schemes being considered?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.